

SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2004-2005

-Commonwealth of Kentucky-

Niagara Elementary School

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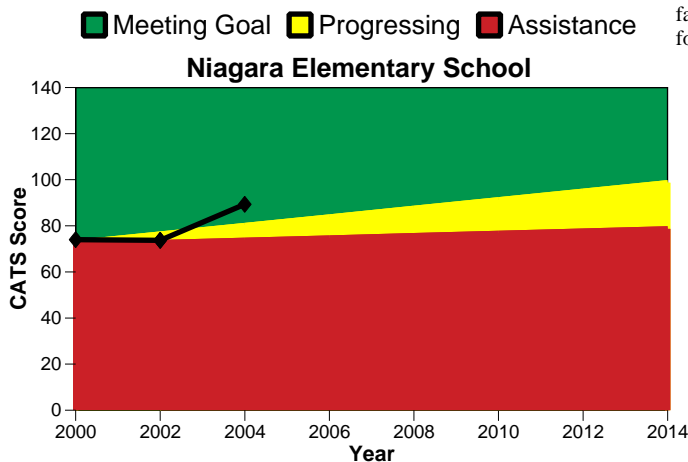


Dear Parents/Guardians:

Here is our school's report card for the 2004-2005 school year. This report card is full of important information, including academic performance, teacher qualifications, our learning environment, and much more. Please take a moment to learn more about our school. For a more detailed look at our school, please contact us to see our Expanded Report Card on file at school, which includes more information than we can provide here.

The School Growth Chart:

To see how we're performing, please take a moment to examine our growth chart. This chart starts with our school's baseline CATS score from 2000. We've drawn a goal line from that starting point to our goal of 100 in 2014. Every two years a new index point will be marked on the chart to show whether we are meeting our goal and earning rewards, progressing but short of our goal, or falling far short of our goal and eligible for state assistance. Over time, these points will form a performance trend line for our school.



Year	Goal Line	Assistance Line	Index
2000	72.7		74.0
2002	76.4	72.7	73.7
2004	80.1	73.7	89.3
2006	83.8	74.7	
2008	87.6	75.7	
2010	91.3	76.7	
2012	95	77.7	
2014	98.7	78.7	
Standard Error: 1.3			

About Our School

The mission of Niagara Elementary School is to educate all students in order for them to do their best. The home, community, and school should work together to prepare students to be responsible citizens in our changing world. Our vision is that Niagara School will be an inviting, progressive, learning environment focusing on real-life experiences. Our school theme is "Learning is Our Bridge to Success: We're Going Places!" We value the connections we make with the children, their families, and our community and know that we must all work together to educate our students and one another. Our goal is to bridge all communication and academic achievement gaps in order to create a true learning community. We are striving to reach proficiency by providing all students a rigorous and relevant curriculum within a safe, orderly, and pleasant learning environment. We are committed to preparing students for a successful transition to the next educational level. The school staff works diligently while collaborating with parents and the community in order to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students. Our school has been determined to be a progressing school as the result of students' performance in the last state testing cycle. As a result of the 2004 and 2005 test scores, we received state recognition for surpassing two recognition points - 77% and 88%! Our academic index in 2002 was 73.7, in 2003 it improved to 85.6 and in 2005 it is currently 91.5! Niagara School is accredited by the national standards through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

How Our School Ensures Educational Equity

The education of each and every child is the top priority of Niagara Elementary School. Various teaching methods, strategies, and materials are used in order to ensure the success of each student. The progress of students is monitored frequently and parents are kept informed of their child's need for further instruction or an added challenge. Parents are given a copy of the grade level curriculum standards at the beginning of the school year and are encouraged to work with their child(ren) at home to help them master the standards. Students who demonstrate difficulty in mastering standards are given an opportunity to have remedial instruction or enrichment during school intercessions. The Title I Program, Extended School Services, Gifted Education, Special Education, Speech Therapy, Guidance Program, Academic Team, Accelerated Math, and the Accelerated Reader Program are examples of the various services available to meet individual student needs.

School Enrollment (end of year membership 2004-2005): 320

How Our Students Perform

Kentucky uses the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) to hold schools accountable for student progress. CATS has three parts: the Kentucky Core Content Tests, the national Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS/5), and other measures of the school's performance, including attendance, retention and dropout rates. Together these three elements make up a school's CATS Performance Score for every two-year period.

Kentucky Core Content Tests

Kentucky's tests rate student performance using four categories: Novice, Apprentice, Proficient, and Distinguished. These categories translate into a scale of 0-140, with 100 being considered proficient. The state goal for all schools is 100 by the year 2014. This chart compares our school's performance with all the schools in our district and all the schools in Kentucky.

KCCT Test	Novice			Apprentice			Proficient/Distinguished			Academic Index		
	School	District	State	School	District	State	School	District	State	School	District	State
Reading 4th	0%	6%	11%	18%	16%	22%	82%	78%	68%	97.3	94.4	87.1
Science 4th	2%	4%	6%	22%	36%	40%	76%	60%	54%	101.9	91.9	87.6
Writing 4th	5%	4%	8%	48%	45%	48%	46%	51%	43%	76	80.7	74.9
Mathematics 5th	16%	20%	25%	33%	34%	30%	52%	46%	45%	82.2	77.3	74.4
Social Studies 5th	6%	14%	21%	22%	24%	27%	72%	62%	53%	97.6	87.3	79.3
Arts & Humanities 5th	8%	17%	30%	45%	40%	37%	47%	43%	32%	80.7	74.6	62.8
PL/VS 5th	6%	9%	14%	20%	21%	23%	73%	70%	63%	95.2	91.5	84.9

The goal is that by 2014 nearly all students will score proficient or distinguished.

National Norm Referenced Test

The national norm referenced test used in Kentucky, the CTBS/5, measures the basic skills of our students while allowing us to compare their performance with national benchmarks established in 1996. These scores are reported in percentiles. A percentile shows the percentage of students who fell below a particular score on the test. For example, a percentile of 60 would show that the average student in our school scored equal to or better than 60 percent of all students who took the test.

National Norm Referenced Test (CTBS/5)	School	District	State	Nation
End of Primary (EOP) Reading	81%ile	70%ile	65%ile	50%ile
EOP Language Arts	79%ile	67%ile	62%ile	50%ile
EOP Mathematics	77%ile	73%ile	67%ile	50%ile

Other Measures

The final component of CATS is our school's performance in Attendance, Retention, Dropout, Graduation and Transition to Adult Life, where appropriate. (The Retention Rate is the percent of students who were not academically ready to go on to the next grade and had to repeat the grade.) Data in these tables reflect our performance during the 2003-2004 school year.

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate
School	96%	0%
District	94.7%	3%
State	94.3%	3.3%

State Contest Results: Academic/Speech, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

The Niagara Elementary School Academic Team won first place in the KAAC Governor's Cup competition at the district level during the 2004-2005 school year.

Teacher Qualifications

This chart shows the level of teacher certification, continuing education, and classroom experience of our teachers. These numbers do not include our administrators, guidance counselors, or library media specialists. Please bear in mind that teachers may be fully certified and yet not possess a formal major or minor in the subjects they are teaching. Upon request, our district will provide information about the qualifications of your child's teachers and teachers' aides.

	Sch.	Dist.	State
% of Classes Taught by Teachers Certified for Subject and Grade Level	100%	98%	NA
% of Classes Taught by Teachers With a Major, Minor, or Equivalent in the Subject Being Taught	100%	98%	NA
% of Classes Taught by Teachers Who Participated in Content-Focused Professional Development	100%	100%	NA
% of Teachers with a Masters Degree or Greater or the Equivalent	59%	73%	78%
Average Years of Teaching Experience	7.4	11.0	11.8

Our Learning Environment

School Safety

Here's what we are doing to make our school safe for our students.

	Yes	No
Visitors are Required to Sign In	X	
All Parents received the District Discipline Code	X	
% of Classrooms with Telephone Access to Outside Lines	100%	

Procedures in Place in Our School for Drug and Weapons Detection

Niagara School faculty and staff receive training annually on procedures to promote the safety of all students. School district Safe School Committee members conduct a yearly safety inspection of the school. Students also receive instruction concerning school safety and how to respond to dangerous situations. Safety procedures are practiced monthly with students. All visitors are required to sign in at the front office and all outside doors, except the front door, are kept locked throughout the school day. Book bags and jackets are kept on hooks along the classroom walls and students are taught to report anything dangerous or unusual to the nearest adult. Metal detectors are available for use if the need arises.

Violation	Number of Reported Incidents	Number of Students Suspended for This	Number of Students Expelled for This
1st degree Assault	0	0	0
Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0
Weapons Violations	0	0	0

Student Resources

	Spending per Student	Student/Teacher Ratio	Student/Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation with Internet Access
Our School	\$5757	14:1	4.1:1	100%
District	\$2980	16:1	3.6:1	100%
State	\$8663	16:1	3.7:1	100%

How We Use Technology to Teach

Technology is an important tool used in the teaching/learning process within our school. Each classroom has at least two networked student computer stations on which students access the Internet, use the Accelerated Reader, Math, and Writing Programs, complete software program lessons, and use the word processor for writing reports and stories. The school's computer lab is equipped with networked computers and various curriculum-based software programs. Teachers also use the SMART board and the Internet access in the computer lab for instructional purposes. The Niagara PTA purchased the most current technology teaching and presenting tools, the ACTIVboard, and it is being used as a pilot project in one of our classrooms. Other teachers and students occasionally sign up to use this new teaching/learning tool, therefore we are seeking additional funding to replicate this technology in other classrooms within the school. All students receive instruction in the computer lab on a weekly basis in order to master technology standards on their grade level. The school library also is fully automated and has several workstations available for student use.

Parental Involvement

	# of Students Whose Parent/Guardian Had at Least One Teacher Conference	# of Parents/Guardians Voting in School Council (SBDM) Elections	# of Parents/Guardians Serving on the School Council (SBDM) or Its Committees	# of Volunteer Hours
Our School	328	52	14	1875

Extracurricular Activities

Niagara students are involved in Student Council, Student Technology Leadership Program, Governor’s Cup Academic Team, Rotary Field Team, ABA basketball teams and cheerleading, 4-H, Girl and Boy Scouts.

Awards and Recognition

Niagara School has been recognized for being one of fifty-nine school to improve their school’s academic index on the CATS by double digits. Our index improved from 73.7 to 85.6 in 2003 and from 85.6 to 92.9 in 2004.

What We Are Doing To Improve

Test scores are analyzed annually to determine improvement needs. Curriculum standards are being used to ensure student mastery of appropriate skills. A copy of these standards has been given to parents so that they can also work on these skills at home. Teachers are using curriculum materials and best practice instructional strategies that focus on the curriculum standards specific to their grade level. Students will be tested over the standards throughout the school year and in the spring on the Kentucky Core Content Test and the California Test of Basic Skills. A school improvement plan has been developed through the comprehensive planning process, which places emphasis on improving student achievement in Writing and Arts and Humanities, areas where test scores are the lowest. The school district staff conducts an annual scholastic review of Niagara School and the recommendations for improvement are addressed.

How to Get More Information

Call, e-mail, fax or write to our principal at the number and address on the top of this School Report Card. You may contact your School Council Members at the numbers below. Visit our main office and ask for the Expanded School Report Card that contains a variety of information including Kentucky Core Content Test data and CTBS/5 national norm referenced test data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, disability and other criteria. This disaggregated data is available to you at no cost. The remainder of the Expanded School Report Card may be free or provided at cost of copying.

Member’s Name	Phone	Member’s Name	Phone
Jeff Coursey	270 831 5142		
Bethany Watson	270 831 5142		
Gary Daniels	270 831 5142		
Kim Christian	270 831 5142		
Sandra Farley	270 831 5142		
Patty Sellers	270 831 5142		

Our school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in employment or provision of services.



TO THE PARENTS OF:

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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